

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Religious Studies
Course RS100 Religions of Asia, Winter 2019
Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 AM to 12:50 PM
Classroom: SJ2 1002

Instructor: Patricia Campbell

Office: SH 2113

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 to 2:00 PM or by appointment

Email: pa2campb@connect.uwaterloo.ca

Course Description: An introduction to the religious traditions of the East: the history, beliefs, and practices of Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- A. have gained new knowledge about the religious traditions and cultures of South and East Asia
 - be familiar with vocabulary and concepts relevant to these traditions.
 - have developed new skills for understanding the worldviews and practices of others, and the development of these traditions over time.
- B. have taken individual initiative to learn, analyze and synthesize information about a specific topic relevant to a specific religious tradition.
 - have developed skills in research, analysis and group consultation on a visual presentation project.
- C. understand the contemporary Canadian experiences of members of the religions studied.

Required Text:

Doris R. Jakobsh, ed. 2013. *World Religions Canadian Perspectives: Eastern Traditions*. Toronto: Nelson Publishers.

Other Readings:

Additional short readings will be made available as hand-outs in class.

Course Requirements and Assessment

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
In-Class Writing Assignments (10 at 3%)	Ongoing	30%
RS100 Project research summaries (3 at 10%)	Jan. 23, Feb. 11 and Feb. 27	30%
Participation (based on in-class discussions)	Ongoing	10%
Quiz	March 27	15%
RS100 Project "Knowledge Fair"	April 3	15%
Total		100%

In-Class Writing Assignments or “Two-Minute Papers”: ten at 3% each = 30%

Please be aware that, per SJU Academic Policy, “students are expected to attend all scheduled sections of the courses in which they have enrolled.” This course requires your attendance. A significant part of your mark will be based on very brief in-class hand written assignments called Two-Minute Papers. Each will be worth 3% of your final grade and you will be graded on the first 10 that you submit. There will be approximately 13 opportunities to write these papers, so you can still get full marks if a few are missed. You will be graded on following the instructions for the assignment, including specific details, and on critical thinking skills. Additional instructions will be given in class.

Quiz: 15%

There will be one quiz conducted in class on March 27th. It will be based on lectures and material from the textbook. A list of analytical questions to guide reading from the textbook and studying for the quiz will be made available on LEARN. The questions appearing on the quiz will be selected from this list (they may be edited for clarity). Answering the questions fully will require specific details from both the textbook and the lectures. Students are strongly advised to prepare and review their answers to the analytical questions throughout the term as lectures progress. Note that there is no final exam for this course.

RS100 PROJECT

The RS100 Project will give students the chance to become experts in a focussed topic of their choice in one of the main religious traditions of Asia, and to share that knowledge in small groups and with the rest of the class. Early in the course, each student will choose or be assigned to a small group that will research one of the major religions of RS100. In consultation with your group, you will choose a sub-topic within that religion to research on your own. At the end of the course, groups will create visual presentations of the information researched by each group member. Details on the linked assignments for this project follow.

RS100 Project Research Summaries: three at 10% each = 30%

The Research Summary assignments will guide you in conducting research on your sub-topic for the RS100 Project. You will submit three short research summary assignments, between 700 and 1000 words in length (excluding bibliography). Be sure to focus your research to support your final project.

Each summary will require you to choose a minimum of three research sources on your sub-topic for the RS100 Project. For the first summary, one of those sources must be the course textbook. For each summary, you may include one pop culture source such as a blog, website, film, conversation with a religious person, etc. The remaining sources must be academic articles, chapters, or books.

Summaries are to consist of focused and in-depth details on your RS100 Project sub-topic. Include important information from the research sources along with your critical reflections and questions on the topic. These details may appear in point form and must be in your own words. Sources for the research information must be cited properly.

On the days that summaries are due, students will meet in their project groups and share their findings, basically teaching other group members what they learned. Summaries will be submitted on LEARN before class, and students are asked to bring a hard copy with them to class. Assignments must include a title, your name, and a bibliography, and must be kept within the word limit noted above.

RS100 Project “Knowledge Fair”: 15%

On the last day of class, we will complete the final group assignment for the course, a “Knowledge Fair.” For this project, you will work with your group to produce a visual presentation of your individual group members’ research on its assigned religious tradition. Your contribution to your group’s project will draw on your research summaries, course readings, other in-class materials, and other resources where necessary. Groups will have some time to work together in class, and are expected to take some time outside of class to consult on the project. In the last class, each group will set up a visual information hub in the classroom from which to share the group’s research and findings on the religious tradition they studied. Students will be graded out of 10% on their contribution to their group’s hub, and out of 5% on a participation questionnaire completed during the Knowledge Fair. More details on this project will be worked out in class.

RS100 Class Schedule UPDATED February 25, 2019

Week	Date	Topic
1	January 7 January 9	Introduction Hindu Traditions
2	January 14 January 16	Hindu Traditions Hindu Traditions
3	January 21 January 23	Hindu Traditions Sikh Traditions Research Summary #1 due
4	January 28 January 30	Sikh Traditions Sikh Traditions
5	February 4 February 6	Sikh Traditions Class cancelled
6	February 11 February 13	Buddhist Traditions Buddhist Traditions Research Summary #2 due (Feb 15)
	February 18 To 22	Study days: no classes
7	February 25 February 27	Class cancelled Buddhist Traditions
8	March 4 March 6	Buddhist and Chinese Traditions Research Summary #3 due Chinese Traditions
9	March 11 March 13	Chinese Traditions Chinese and Japanese Traditions
10	March 18 March 20	Japanese Traditions Japanese Traditions
11	March 25 March 27	Japanese Traditions QUIZ
12	April 1 April 3	Current Issues and Knowledge Fair planning Knowledge Fair

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day. If you are having difficulty getting an assignment in on time due to illness or another emergency, be sure to contact me IN ADVANCE before the assignment is due. I am quite willing to offer extensions when needed, but please note that many of the assignments are part of the larger group project and rely on the timing set out on the course schedule. Late penalties will apply, no matter the reason, if advanced notice of late submission is not received.

Electronic Device Policy

Laptops and smartphones are permitted in class except during the quiz. Students have often told me that they find it very distracting when other students are surfing non-course related websites and texting, etc. I also find it very distracting and a breach of etiquette. Classes are just one hour and twenty minutes long: Please be respectful to your instructor and other students and refrain from using electronic devices for non-course related activities during the class. You may be asked to leave if breaching this etiquette.

*A (hopefully helpful) bit of information: Studies consistently show that students who hand-write their lecture notes instead of using a laptop or other digital device perform markedly better on exams.

Attendance Policy

As noted, course attendance is expected and most of the grades for this course are dependent on your presence and participation in class. In cases of absence due to illness or emergency, contact the instructor as soon as possible. Some accommodations for missed assignments can be made with advance notice.

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. This is done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Addendum, from the CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory:

Acknowledging territory and First Peoples should take place within the larger context of genuine and ongoing work to forge real understanding, and to challenge the legacies of colonialism.

Instructor's addendum:

Real understanding involves informing oneself about the history of the Indigenous peoples, including the details concerning local treaties and residential schools. I encourage you to learn more.